

10 FEB 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Officer, DCI

SUBJECT : Comment on Recommendation for Establishment of  
Position of Cable Control Officer

1. It is doubtful that the establishment of a position of Cable Control Officer, as recommended in the attached report, will achieve the objective of a substantial reduction in cable traffic. It might serve a useful purpose in identifying habitual violators of existing regulations, but the end result would not justify the cost. Furthermore, I am not sure that I can support, without grave reservations, the philosophy expressed in the report that, "discipline, to be respected and most effective, should come from outside the organization being disciplined."

2. The problem of curtailing the volume of cable traffic was discussed in the IG Survey report of the Office of Communications in January 1956. Our survey identified the same problems described in the Management Staff report and others as well. Several suggestions were made to relieve the burden of cable traffic, including:

a. Re-establishment of the fast pouch service which had earlier been instrumental in reducing cable traffic.

b. Authorization for the extended use of lateral communications without the requirement for information copies to Washington Headquarters.

c. More uniform use of cryptographic equipment to avoid the need for relaying messages.

d. Consideration be given to the establishment of an Agency courier system to relieve the burden on the State Department system.

3. It was also recognized that since the Clandestine Services were responsible for about 90% of all cable traffic, some stringent steps should be taken by the DDP to exercise more effective control over the increasing volume. Among these were:

a. The elimination of certain types of lengthy periodic reports transmitted and disseminated by cable.

b. Greater use of the  pouch.

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c. Designation of fewer releasing officers but with greater authority to enforce cable regulations.

4. I believe that the proposed Cable Control Officer could accomplish little more than has already been done. The Deputy Directors have the authority to effect what discipline is necessary and certainly are capable of doing so. The need is not for more policing but for a greater concentration on the elimination of unnecessary reporting by cable, and on further improvement in pouch service.

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(Lyman B. Kirkpatrick  
Inspector General

Attachment  
(Report)